

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 22, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter for claims 3-5, 7 and 8 is appreciated. Claim 9 has been added. Claims 1-9 are pending, of which the independent claims are 1 and 9. Claims 1-5, 7 and 8 have been amended. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,324,391 to Bodell.

Present claim 1 has been redrafted to improve clarity, but retains the same scope. The amendment of claim 1 finds support in FIG. 5 and the accompanying text in the specification.

Present claim 1 recites, "a plurality of optical fiber links coupled to said BTS controller at one end via an optical coupling and the plurality of said compact BTSs at the other end; . . . a plurality of optical transponders arranged . . . along each of said optical fiber links, said optical transponders being operative for receiving, along the respective optical fiber link, an optical signal traveling away from the BTS controller in a forward direction, the forward optical signal to be retransmitted as a down-link signal . . ."

Due at least to link 16₁, for whom the signal flow is toward the controllers 122, 116, Bodell fails to disclose or suggest the above-quoted feature of the present claim 1.

Even if the links 16₁, 16₂ were combined, it is unclear how Bodell could fairly be construed as disclosing or suggesting multiple ones of these combined links from the MTSO 14.

The Office Action cites to lines 38-61 of column 4, but this passage provides no insight as to what in Bodell corresponds to the "plurality of optical links" of present claim 1.

In addition and by way of further example, claim 1 recites, "said BS controller coupled to

a base transceiver system (BTS) via a first E1 or T1 link.”

Bodell, by contrast, discloses a BSC 116 coupled to a central office or MTSO 14. The latter, in turn, is coupled to a cell site 12, what the Office Action is presumably calling a base transceiver system. The latter expression is a term of art, as would be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art. It is unclear how it properly could be said that Bodell features or suggests “said BS controller coupled to a base transceiver system (BTS) via a first E1 or T1 link.”

Also, by way of further example, it is unclear how Bodell can be characterized as disclosing or suggesting “compact base transceiver systems” or a controller for such structures.

For at least all of the above reasons, Bodell fails to anticipate or render obvious the present invention as recited in claim 1.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

As to rejected claims 2 and 6, each depends from a respective base claim and is deemed to be patentable at least due to its dependency.

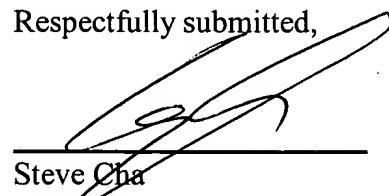
Support for the amendment of claim 3 is found in the specification (e.g., [0027], second sentence).

Claims 3-5, 7 and 8 stand objected to for dependence on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if redrafted into independent form. However, as set forth above, base claim 1 distinguishes patentably over the applied reference. Therefore, claims 3-5, 7 and 8 are deemed to be allowable at least due to their dependency from claim 1.

New claim 9 is a process or method claim corresponding to “system” or apparatus claim 1, and therefore has likewise been shown to be patentable over Bodell.

Should the Examiner deem that there are any issues which may be best resolved by telephone, please contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below. If there are any fees due and owing, please charge Applicants Deposit Account on file 502-507.

Respectfully submitted,



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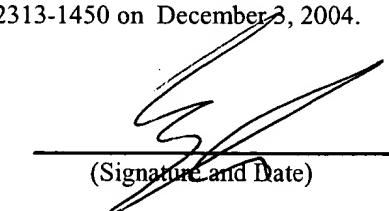
Date: December 3, 2004

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on December 3, 2004.

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(Signature and Date)